



**CITY OF RIVERDALE, GA
MAYOR & COUNCIL BUSINESS SESSION
MINUTES
MONDAY MAY 11, 2015 | 7:15 PM**

The Honorable Mayor Evelyn Wynn Dixon

The Honorable Cynthia Stamps Jones
The Honorable Wanda Wallace

The Honorable An'cel Davis
The Honorable Kenneth Ruffin

City Manager:
City Clerk:
City Attorney:

E. Scott Wood
Sylvia Vaughan
L'Erin Barnes

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** By the Honorable Mayor Evelyn Wynn Dixon.
2. **ROLL CALL- CITY CLERK:** All Members of Council were present which constituted a quorum.
3. **INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Recited in unison.
4. **OFFICER IN ARMS TO READ RULES OF CONDUCT:**
5. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS/DELETIONS:** There were three additions, the City Clerk's Contract; the Council Attendance Policy and Executive Session. There were two deletions, Body Worn Cameras and the Election of IGA.

Council Member Wallace made a motion to approve the Agenda with additions and deletions. Council Member Ruffin provided the second. **The motion carried unanimously.**

6. **PRESENTATION(S)** (10 Minute limit) Riverdale High School and Sequoyah Middle School Step Teams

Council Member Davis introduced the Riverdale High School and Sequoyah Middle School Step Teams and presented them with a proclamation on behalf of the Mayor and City Council of Riverdale for their accomplishments. He said "we have greatness among us because these teams have won both the National and State Step Team Titles."

7. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** (5 Minute Limit) *See Blue Card for Rules of Participation.*
8. Michelle Bruce, 618 Roy Huie Road, Riverdale, GA. 30274, commented about being chastised regarding her comments concerning the ethics violations. Ms. Bruce stated how it is fine if charges are found because at this point, there is a lot going on and the city has addressed a lot of issues. She commented how the City is under no leadership and it is out of control. Ms. Bruce said "when she came out of office,



she thought we were past this.” Mayor Wynn Dixon stated that there are a lot of great things going on at the City of Riverdale and asked Ms. Bruce to meet with the Police Chief regarding programs going on with the kids.

9. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES:

Council Minutes of March 18, 2015 Special Called Meeting and Minutes of April 27, 2015 Work Session and Business Session.

Council Member Wallace made a motion to approve the Minutes of March 18, 2015 Special Called Meeting and Minutes of April 27, 2015 Work Session and Business Session. Council Member Ruffin provided the second. **The motion carried unanimously.**

10. APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Council Attendance Policy

Attorney Barnes presented the Council Attendance Policy to approve option 3, regarding the Attendance Policy Section 2.1 C.

Council Member Wallace made a motion to approve the Council Attendance Policy Section 2.1C with Council Member Ruffin providing the second. **The motion carried.**

2. Section 4.22 Amendment of the Employee Handbook Resolution No. 37-04-2015 for the Return of City Property

Council Member Wallace made a motion to approve the Section 4.22 Amendment of the Employee Handbook Resolution No. 37-04-2015 for the Return of City Property with the addition that IT be a part of the process. Council Member Ruffin provided the second. Council Member Wallace asked if a copy of the updated Employee Handbook could be sent to the board. **After discussion, the motion carried.**

3. Contract for the City Clerk

Council Member Stamps Jones made a motion to table the City Clerk’s Contract until the next Mayor and Council Business Session with Council Member Davis providing the second.

Council Member Stamps-Jones recommended this agenda item be tabled until the document is amended for everyone to review. Council Member Ruffin and Council Member Wallace said their preference is for the contract to be written as an example from the College Park Contract. Council Member Wallace said “this contract would only pertain to Ms. Vaughan and she would be under the supervision of the City Manager. Council Member Davis said he would like to see how it is put together.” **After discussion, the motion carried unanimously.**

4. MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENT(S):

Council Member Stamps Jones stated that for community purposes and the record, she was not at the last meeting because she had an emergency; and not because she is a coward. Council Member Stamps Jones stated she has missed three meetings out of the time she has been on the Council. She said “she did file an ethics complaint because she has just as much right to, just as Council Member Ruffin filed against Mr. Hall; and Council Member Wallace filed against Council Member Ruffin; and Council Member Ruffin filed against all of them.” Council Member Stamps Jones stated she has nothing against anyone on the board. She has helped Council Members Ruffin, Wallace and the Mayor during their election.

Council Member Davis thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting. He commented how he really liked the support we gave the Sequoya Middle School and the Riverdale High School. He said” when young people are doing positive things it is very important because they are not in the news for doing anything negative.” He stated that it is a new day and we need to learn to agree to disagree. He said he hopes everyone gets home safely.

Council Member Ruffin stated there are twenty two ethic charges and two were considered valid. He explained how some of the ethic charges should not have been discussed because they were over a year old. The process of the investigator was ridiculous because the cost was \$8200 and this was a waste of money. Council Member Ruffin said “one of the witnesses stated that he told an athletic director which kids to use for the athletic program; and the problem with that is the witness.” The last and former director was not asked any questions; and at that time this was a citizen of three years ago. Council Member Ruffin said “this person asked him what would we do if a kid acts unruly” Council Member Ruffin asked the individual what he would do if an adult was asked the same question. Council Member Ruffin stated we are going to fix this thing, however; it is a shame money is wasted on this matter.

Council Member Stamps Jones said it does not matter about the time frame and it does not mean it did not happen, or that it is right. She said we are here to give the city manager instructions on the day to day operations.

Mayor Wynn Dixon stated she wanted to clear herself regarding the last two charges. Mayor Wynn Dixon’s father was in hospice when she attended a conference in Washington DC. The hotel fare and flight shows she was scheduled to leave on Friday returning on Sunday. Mayor Wynn Dixon attended all her classes and commented she never stays for an entire conference because she leaves once her classes are completed. Mayor Wynn Dixon stated she received a telephone call from an individual who said she would be arrested before attending her father’s funeral regarding a City of Riverdale check in the amount of \$2500. It was proven that Mayor Dixon never touched the funds and she has not broken any laws. The other charges was that Mayor Wynn Dixon interrupted a city employee from performing her job. Mayor Wynn Dixon said someone was trying to build and they kept running into obstacles. She said she got permission from the City Manager to talk to Ms. Moore. Mayor Wynn-Dixon stated she tried 4 times to meet with Ms. Moore and she would not answer her calls. Mayor Dixon said when Ms. Moore did come to see her she brought her entire staff. Mr. Woods asked them twice to leave her office. Mayor Dixon said all she wanted was to tell Ms. Moore is that there were

three businesses who were trying to come to the city. Mayor Wynn Dixon said Council Member Stamps Jones stood in her office door on last Friday and said I do not like you but I do not want to hate you. Mayor Dixon said Council Member Stamps Jones said she hated her. The Mayor said she asked her why and Council Member Stamps Jones said she did not know. Council Member Stamps Jones said she never said that. Mayor Wynn Dixon said she has an attorney if she has to fight this. She said Council Member Stamps Jones gave her a beautiful card when her father passed but her attorney told her to give it back. Mayor Wynn Dixon said she gave the situation to Jesus and she is hurt to be called a thief. She said she knows if she did not steal when she was homeless and hungry, she would not take anything now. Mayor Wynn Dixon said by the blood of Jesus she is not taking any days off from Riverdale and she is going to keep on doing what she is doing. She said she does not accept any of the charges because she trust God and this too shall pass. She thanked everyone for listening.

Council Member Wallace asked Ms. Vaughan to read her comments into the record. She said she takes these charges very seriously. She said this is an attack on her integrity and reputation. **(Please read attachment)**

Pastor Riley said fifteen years and four months ago he was asked to be a Chaplin for the City of Riverdale and he has been praying for the Mayor and Council. He said whatever is going on to find a board room and put it under your feet because a spirit is not a spirit unless you pick it up. He said they need to come in unity, harmony and love. He said to give the newspaper something good to write about this great city.

5. Ethics Complaint Recommendation

Council Member Ruffin made a motion to not accept the recommendations by the ethics officer regarding the two findings for the ethics violations. **The motion failed due to the lack of a second.**

Council Member Wallace asked for a motion on Section 3-d for a hearing.

Council Member Stamps Jones asked to postpone the hearing.

Council Member Stamps Jones made a motion to move forward with the hearing seconded by Council Member Davis. **Mayor Wynn Dixon abstained from voting. The motion failed with Council Members Stamps Jones, Davis, Wallace and Ruffin voting “No”.**

Council Member Ruffin made a motion to accept the ethics officer’s recommendation that the twenty remaining charges are unfounded or waived with Council Member Stamps Jones providing the second. **The motion passed with Council Members Stamps Jones, Davis and Ruffin voting “Yes”. Mayor Wynn Dixon and Council Member Wallace abstained from voting.**

Council Member Ruffin withdrew his last motion to accept the ethics officer’s recommendation that the twenty remaining charges are unfounded or waived with Council Member Stamps Jones providing the second. **Council Members Stamps Jones, Davis, Ruffin and Wallace voted “Yes”. The motion carried unanimously.**

1. Council Member Stamps Jones made a motion to not accept the recommendation for count 1 complainant alleges a violation of Riverdale Code of Ethics Sec. 3-4 findings of the ethics officer. **The motion failed for a lack of a second.**
2. Council Member Stamps Jones made a motion to accept count 2, complainant alleges a violation of Riverdale Code of Ethics Sec. 3-4 findings of the ethics officer with Mayor Dixon providing the second. **The motion passed with Council Members Stamps Jones and Davis voting “Yes”. Council Member Wallace voted “No”. Council Member Ruffin abstained from voting.**
3. Council Member Stamps Jones made a motion to not accept count 3, complainant alleges a violation of Riverdale Code of Ethics Sec. 3-4 with Council Member Wallace providing the second. Council Member Wallace rescinded her motion. **The motion failed for lack of a second.**
4. Council Member Stamps Jones made a motion to not accept count 4, complainant alleges a violation of Riverdale Code of Ethics Sec. 3-4 ethics officer findings. Attorney Barnes said this item is outside the statute of limitation. **The motion failed for the lack of a second.**
5. Council Member Stamps Jones made a motion to accept count 5, complainant alleges a violation of Riverdale Code of Ethics Sec. 3-4 ethics officer findings with Council Member Davis providing the second. Attorney Barnes said this item is outside the statute of limitation. **The motion passed with Council Members Stamps Jones and Davis voting “Yes” and Council Member Wallace voted “No”. Council Member Ruffin abstained from voting.**
6. Count 6 was voted on not to conduct a hearing regarding complainant alleges a violation of Riverdale Code of Ethics Sec. 3-4 ethics officer findings.
7. Council Member Stamps Jones made a motion to not accept count 7, complainant alleges a violation of Riverdale Code of Ethics Sec. 3-4 ethics officer findings. **The motion failed for lack of a second.**
8. Council Member Stamps Jones made a motion to not accept count 8, complainant alleges a violation of Riverdale Code of Ethics Sec. 3-4 ethics officer findings. **The motion failed for lack of a second.**
9. Council Member Stamps Jones made a motion to not accept count 9, complainant alleges a violation of Riverdale Code of Ethics Sec. 3-4 ethics officer findings with Council Member Davis providing the second. **The motion carried with Council Members Stamps Jones and Davis voting “Yes”. Mayor Wynn Dixon and Council Members Wallace; and Ruffin abstained from voting.**

10. Council Member Stamps Jones made a motion to not accept count 10, complainant alleges a violation of Riverdale Code of Ethics Sec. 3-4 ethics officer findings with Council Member Davis providing the second. **The motion carried with Council Members Stamps Jones and Davis voting “yes”. Mayor Wynn Dixon and Council Members Wallace; and Ruffin abstained from voting.**
11. Council Member Stamps Jones made a motion to not accept count 11, complainant alleges a violation of Riverdale Code of Ethics Sec. 3-4 with Council Member Davis providing the second. **The motion carried with Council Members Stamps Jones and Davis voting “yes”. Mayor Wynn Dixon and Council Members Wallace and Ruffin abstained from voting.**
12. Council Member Stamps Jones made a motion to not accept count 12, complainant alleges a violation of Riverdale Code of Ethics Sec. 3-4 findings of the ethics officer. **The motion failed for lack of a second.**
13. Council Member Stamps Jones made a motion to not accept count 13, complainant alleges a violation of Riverdale Code of Ethics Sec. 3-4 with Council Member Davis providing the second. **The motion carried with Council Members Stamps Jones and Davis voting “yes”. Mayor Wynn Dixon and Council Members Wallace; and Ruffin abstained from voting.**
14. Council Member Stamps Jones made a motion to accept count 14, complainant alleges a violation of Riverdale Code of Ethics Sec. 3-4 findings from the ethics officer. Attorney Barnes said this item waives the statute of limitations. **The motion failed for lack of a second.**
15. Council Member Stamps Jones made a motion to not accept count 15, complainant alleges a violation of Riverdale Code of Ethics Sec. 3-4 ethics officer findings. **The motion failed for lack of a second.**
16. Council Member Stamps Jones made a motion to not accept count 16, complainant alleges a violation of Riverdale Code of Ethics Sec. 3-4 ethics officer findings with Council Member Davis providing the second. **Council Members Stamps Jones and Davis voted yes; and Council Members Wallace and Ruffin voting “No”. The motion failed because of a tie.**
17. Council Member Stamps Jones made a motion to not accept count 17, complainant alleges a violation of Riverdale Code of Ethics Sec. 3-4 ethics officer findings. Council Member Davis made the second. **Council Members Stamps Jones and Davis voted “yes”; and Council Members Wallace and Ruffin voted “No”. The motion fails because of a tie.**
18. Count 18 was already voted on that there will be no hearing.
19. Council Member Stamps Jones made a motion to not accept Count 19, complainant alleges a violation of Riverdale Code of Ethics Sec. 3-4 ethics officer findings with Council Member Davis provided the second. **Council Members Stamps Jones and Davis voted “yes” and Council Members Wallace and Ruffin voting “No”. The motion failed because of a tie.**



20. Council Member Stamps Jones made a motion to accept count 20, complainant alleges a violation of Riverdale Code of Ethics Sec. 3-4 ethics officer findings with Council Member Ruffin providing the second. **The motion passed with Council Members Ruffin, Davis and Mayor Wynn Dixon voting “Yes”; and Council Member Stamps Jones voting “No”. Council Member Wallace abstained from voting.**

21. Council Member Stamps Jones made a motion to not accept Count 21, complainant alleges violation of Riverdale Code of Ethics Sec. 3-4 ethics officer findings with Council Member Davis providing the second. **The motion passed with Council Members Stamps Jones and Davis voting “Yes”. Mayor Wynn Dixon, Council Members Ruffin and Wallace abstained from voting.**

22. Council Member Stamps Jones made a motion to accept count 22, complainant alleges a violation of Riverdale Code of Ethics Sec. 3-4 ethics officer findings with Council Member Davis providing the second. **The motion passed unanimously with a 4/0 vote.**

Council Member Stamps Jones made a motion to have a hearing with Council Member Davis providing the second. **The motion carried with Council Member Stamps Jones and Council Member Davis voting “Yes”. Council Members Ruffin and Wallace abstained from voting.**

6. Executive Session:

Council Member Davis made a motion to go into Executive Session with Council Member Stamps Jones providing the second. **The motion carried.**

7. Reconvene back into Regular Meeting

Council Member Ruffin made a motion to reconvene back into Regular Business Session with Council Member Wallace providing the second. **The motion carried.**

8. Accept any actions coming out of Executive Session

Council Member Wallace made a motion to approve items from executive session with Council Member Ruffin proving the second. **The motion carried.**

9. ADJOURNMENT:

Council Member Wallace made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9: 45 PM with Council Member Stamps Jones providing the second. **The motion carried.**

WHEN AN EXECUTIVE SESSION IS REQUIRED, ONE WILL BE CALLED FOR THE FOLLOWING ISSUES: 1) PERSONNEL, 2) LITIGATION OR 3) REAL ESTATE

Evenly Wynn Dixon, Mayor

Sylvia Vaughan, City Clerk